Name of State	Number of persons engaged in (Weavers) and Allied Activities
Uttar Pradesh	4,01,362
Madhya Pradesh	27,744
Andhra Pradesh	4,90,616

The district-wise details of weavers are maintained by the respective State Governments.

(b) The condition of the weavers engaged in the handloom sector is dependent on steady supply of basic inputs like yarn, credit, looms, accessories: etc. at reasonable rates especially as they face stiff competition from the organized mill and powerloom sectors and also in marketing of finished products. In order to alleviate the weavers from the problems and to improve their working conditions, the Government of India has formulated schemes to assist them in acquiring looms, skill upgradation, organize marketing events, supply of yarn and to provide health and life insurance besides others.

(c) The Government of India is implementing the following schemes all over the country including the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and, Andhra Pradesh for enhancing production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and to enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers through skill upgrading, and for providing infrastructural and marketing support in the Eleventh Plan period

(i) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme

(ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme

(iii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme

(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme.

MGBBY for weavers

2296. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY);

(b) the number of handloom weavers covered under MGBBY in Tamil Nadu as on date, district-wise;

(c) whether Health Insurance Scheme has also been extended to the handloom weavers of the State;

(d) if so, the details of enrolments made under the scheme so far, district-wise;

(e) whether all the handloom weavers of the State have been covered under MGBBY and Health Insurance Scheme; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The salient features of Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) are as under:—

The Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana provides life insurance cover to the handloom weavers in case of Natural Death/Accidental Death, Total/Partial Disability due to accident. The benefits available under the scheme during the Eleventh Plan are as under:—

BENEFITS:

1.	Natural death	Rs. 60,000/-
2.	Accidental:	
	(A) On death due to accident	Rs. 1,50,000/-
	(B) Permanent total disability due to accident/ loss of 2 eyes or 2 limbs OR one eye and one limb.	Rs. 1,50,000/-
	(C) Loss of one eye or one limb in an accident	Rs. 75,000/-

Additionally a Scholarship of Rs. 300/- per quarter per child studying in Class IX to XII Standard is given to the children of the weavers covered under MGBBY. This benefit is restricted to two children.

ELIGIBILITY: The scheme covers weavers in the age group of 18 to 59 years.

PREMIUM (per member per annum),

1.	Government of India's contribution	Rs. 150/-
2.	Weavers' contribution	Rs. 80/-
3.	LIC's contribution	Rs. 100/-
	TOTAL:	Rs. 330/-

(b) District-wise number of handloom weavers covered under MGBBY in Tamil Nadu during 2008-09 is as under:—

District	2008-09
1	2
Coimbatore	20300
Cuddalore	8459
Dindigul	8053
Erode	44806
Kancheepuram	21519
Karur	5784

1	2
Kumbakonam	21246
Madurai	16731
Nagarcoil	8161
Paramakudi	8628
Salem	15577
Thiruvallur	3024
Tiruchengode	15585
Tirunelveli	5996
Thiruvarur	969
Trichy	5135
Vellore	15355
Virudunagar	13792
TOTAL:	239120

(c) Yes, Sir. Health Insurance Scheme has also been extended to the weavers of Tamil Nadu.

(d) District-wise enrolment made under Health Insurance Scheme in Tamil Nadu during 2008-09 is as under:—

District	2008-09
1	2
Coimbatore	26729
Cuddalore	10668
Dindigul	9044
Erode	55442
Kancheepuram	23885
Karur	9228
Kumbakonam	19067
Madurai	18575
Nagarcoil	9694
Paramakudi	14622

1	2
Salem	18451
Thiruvallur	3232
Tiruchengode	18433
Tirunelveli	8492
Thiruvarur	1105
Trichy	5578
Vellore	19188
Virudunagar	17590
TOTAL:	289023

(e) and (f) All the handloom weavers are entitled to be covered under Health Insurance Scheme and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana on payment of his/her share of premium and those weavers in respect of whom the premium has been paid to the Insurance Company namely Life Insurance Corporation of India and ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company have been covered under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana and Health Insurance Scheme.

Loan waiver to weavers

†2297. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the weavers are compelled to commit suicide on account of being under the burden of debt;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to waive off the debt of weavers on the lines of farmers;

(c) whether Government has made any estimate to determine the balance of loans of banks and electricity etc. against weavers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when these loans of weavers would be waived off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. Some of the States have reported about the suicides of handloom weavers due to poverty, family disturbances, financial and other domestic problems and the debt burden may also be one of the reasons.

(b) to (d) The Ministry has constituted a High Level Committee headed by MD, NABARD to look into the problems of high cost of working capital and choking of credit lines in the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.